

SECRET

The Director of Central Intelligence  
Washington, D.C. 20505

NIC #03234-84

National Intelligence Council

6 JUN 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director of Central Intelligence  
Deputy Director of Central Intelligence

SUBJECT: Narcotics Warning and Forecast Meeting

Representatives of the Intelligence Community met on 24 May 1984 to  
consider the attached subjects.



25X1

National Intelligence Officer  
for Narcotics



25X1

SECRET

SECRET

## Narcotics Warning and Forecast Meeting

Production MattersColombia - Current Situation

The narcotics crackdown that began last month has paralyzed marijuana trafficking along the north coast and disrupted cocaine networks throughout the country. Police and military units have conducted more than 1500 raids; and although few major traffickers have been detained, there have been about 500 drug-related arrests. Traffickers are going into hiding or fleeing to Peru, Venezuela or Brazil. They have delayed some narcotics shipments, raised prices, and threatened reprisals against government officials. President Betancur has pledged to continue the crackdown and authorized the use of any herbicide except paraquat against drug crops. Popular support for the antidrug campaign is apparently beginning to diminish; however, some government officials are having second thoughts about it.

25X1

Forecast

We believe that the impact of the crackdown will be short-lived; that it will inflict the greatest damage on smaller trafficking organizations and independent coca and marijuana growers; and that major trafficking networks have the resources to sustain operations throughout the crackdown. We are not certain of Colombia's firm commitment to implementing the extradition treaty with the US, and the Foreign Minister has raised doubts about Colombia's plans for herbicide eradication. Moreover, the state of siege could jeopardize Betancur's tenuous truce with guerrilla groups, and senior officers are concerned that the military's enforcement role will increase corruption and weaken its antiguerrilla capabilities. Coupled with waning popular support, these considerations probably will lead Betancur to lift the state of siege in a few months and return the enforcement effort to weak civilian authorities. This would enable traffickers to resume full-scale operations.

SECRET

SECRET

Golden Triangle - Current Situation

The Shan United Army (SUA) probably has a total force of about 2,000 troops, but only about 800 of them are located along the Thai-Burmese border. The SUA's political and economic influence on northern Thailand has been greatly diminished since 1981, mainly because the Thais have effectively reorganized their bureaucratic structure in the region and enhanced their enforcement capabilities. Interdiction operations have reduced SUA refining capabilities; from August 1983 to March 1984, they were able to operate only one refinery on a part-time basis. Nevertheless, the SUA remains resilient, is rebuilding and reestablishing refineries, and maintains firm control of traditional strongholds just inside Burma. Its alliances with the 3rd and 5th Chinese Irregular Forces remain intact, and there have been no recent hostilities among these groups.

25X1

Forecast

Although SUA heroin production may increase in the coming months, we do not believe it will match levels attained prior to 1981. The SUA probably will continue to strengthen alliances with other trafficking groups and rebuild its logistics network, but we do not believe the Burmese Communist Party is likely to establish refineries along the border. Heroin prices along the border probably will remain stable in the foreseeable future because any significant price fluctuations caused by changes in production levels most likely are reflected in international market centers such as Hong Kong and Singapore.

Operational Matters

25X1

SECRET

25X1

CIPC Recommendations

The NIO addressed the only remaining CIPC Study recommendation to be implemented by him. It states that Community production schedules should be reviewed periodically and regularly by the NIO/Narcotics. The A/NIO Narcotics will serve as a focal point for pulling together existing production programs, and we will discuss them periodically during Warning Meetings. They will serve as an additional vehicle to promote information sharing and coordination and help to avoid duplication.

25X1

SECRET